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| EXAMINER |
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TRAN, HAI V

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2611

DATE MAILED: 01/30/2004

11

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/587,115

Applicant(s)

DUREAU, VINCENT

Examiner

Hai Tran

Art Unit

2611

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11/13/2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Claim 1, applicant argues, "Herz does not teach transmitting a notification signal to said programmable device..."; However, applicant admits "Herz teaches a test enable signal and IR request are sent from the television to the remote control. The purpose of the test enable signal is "to inform the remote control of incoming IR request."" It seems that Applicant contradict himself regarding the claimed limitation "transmitting a notification signal" and the teaching of Herz' s "to inform the remote control".

- Applicant further argues Rosenthal does not teach "said programmable device is configured to emit a user-sensible signal to indicate that said programmable device should be brought into communication with said receiving station."

In response, the examiner disagrees with applicant and cites again Rosenthal (col. 4, lines 44-17) to support because Rosenthal teaches a transmitter unit transmits a signal 14 to a receiver unit 13. If the strength of the receiving signal, at the receiver, is below the predetermined reference signal voltage (outside the communication range), then the receiver generates a speech (alarm) from the speech synthesizer 18 to indicate that receiver is out-of range; as a result, the user must bring the receiver closer to the transmitter unit in order to be able to communicate to each other.

- Applicant further argues Rosenthal are not within the field of Applicant 's endeavor.

In response, the examiner respectfully disagrees with Applicant because Applicant's invention and Rosenthal are both related to the field of "Communication".

Claim 10, Applicant argues, the claimed limitation "...instructional cues..." which is not taught or suggested by the cited art.

In response, the Examiner respectfully disagrees with applicant because "instructional cue" defined by Applicant's specification page 17 line 16 is merely a "text message", i.e. Text or Graphic overlaid in which a user could read/view and then performs a function accordingly to the "text message" displayed see Col.8, lines 44-Col. 9, lines 10 and col. 11, lines 15-Col. 13, lines 20 and Fig. 10B-12B. Thus, Herz meets the claimed limitation "...instructional cues..."

Claim Objections

- There is insufficient antecedent basis for the claimed limitations "said second range" in claim 29. It appears that the limitation "said second range" refers to the limitation "a second range" of dependent claim 28; therefore, the Applicant is requested to clarify the antecedent of the foresaid limitations. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit: 2611

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-3, 8-10 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herz (US 6407779) in view of Rosenthal et al. (US 5223815).

Regarding claim 1, Herz discloses a system (Fig. 1 and 2) comprising:

A receiving station (Television) configured to receive a broadcast signal (radio frequency or base-band video data) containing program data (i.e., EPG) (Col. 8, lines 41-44); and

A programmable device (remote control/RC) configured to be coupled to the received station (TV set) and to receive the program data (EPG) from the receiving station (Col. 5, lines 54-Col. 6, lines 9 and Col. 8, lines 44-52).

Wherein one of the receiving station (TV set) and the programmable device (RC) is configured to select a portion of the program data (The RC is configured to select only a portion of the received EPG data based on the availability of RAM on the RC, see Col. 8, lines 57-60 or based on the user preferred setting stored in the RC, see Col. 10, lines 40-47); and

Wherein the programmable device (RC) is configured to store the portion of the program data (store a portion of an EPG, i.e. one day of the scheduled TV programming; Col. 8, lines 57-60).

Wherein the receiving station (TV set) is configured to transmit a notification signal to the programmable device to indicate that the receiving station (TV set) is

ready to transmit the program data to the programmable device (Herz; Col. 7, lines 27-49 and Col. 14, lines 56-65).

Herz does not disclose wherein the programmable device (RC) is configured to emit a user-sensible signal to indicate that the programmable device (RC) should be brought into communication with the receiving station. However, Herz discloses if only IR signal is configured for communicating between the RC and the TV set and when the RC is not within the communication range with the TV set, the RC and the TV set will not communicate until they are both within range (Col. 14, lines 56-65).

Rosenthal discloses a transmitter unit transmits a signal 14 to a receiver unit 13. If the strength of the receiving signal, at the receiver, is below the predetermined reference signal voltage (outside the communication range), then the receiver generates a speech (alarm) from the speech synthesizer 18 to indicate that receiver is out-of range; see col. 4, lines 44-17.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Herz to have a mechanism to notify the user when the receiver device and the transmitter device are not within the communication range, as taught by Rosenthal, so to always keep both devices, transmitter and receiver, within the range of communication.

Regarding claim 2, Herz further discloses, wherein said one of the receiving station (TV set) and the programmable device (RC) is configured to select the portion of the program data according to a set of stored user preferences and to

discard the remainder of the program data (the RC can be programmed to according to the preferences defined by different users... i.e. the RC stores only preferred channels and discards the rest; Col. 10, lines 40-59).

Regarding claim 3, Herz further discloses, said one of the receiving station and the programmable device (RC) is configured to construct the set of stored user preferences (the soft GUI of the present invention provides a personalized RC option for different users... User-specific settings such as preferred channels... etc. can be programmed and stored in the RC memory... Col. 10, lines 40-59).

Regarding claim 8, Herz further discloses, wherein each of the receiving station (TV set) and the programmable device (RC) includes a transceiver 213,226 for bi-directional communication between the receiving station and the programmable device, and wherein the programmable device is configured as an input device (RC) to the receiving station (see Fig. 2; Col. 5, lines 34-53).

Regarding claim 9, Herz further discloses, wherein the transceivers comprise wireless transceivers (Infrared communicator 213, 226 of Fig. 2; Col. 3, lines 19-20 and lines 29-30).

Regarding claim 10, Herz further discloses, wherein the receiving station (TV set) is configured to transmit instructional cues to the programmable device (RC)

and wherein the programmable device is configured to provide the instructional cues (i.e., text or graphic overlaid ... as defined by Applicant description page 17, line 16) to a user (Col. 8, lines 44-Col. 9, lines 10 and Col. 11, lines 15 – Col. 13, lines 20; Fig. 10B-12B).

Regarding claim 25, Rosenthal further discloses wherein the 1st range corresponds to a distance the notification signal may be effectively transmitted (threshold condition for communication between two devices is reached), the 2nd range corresponds to a distance the transmitting signal may be effectively transmitted (less than the threshold condition for communication), and wherein the 1st range is greater than the 2nd range (Col. 3, lines 44-55 and Col. 4, lines 18-30).

2. Claims 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herz (US 6407779) in view of Rosenthal et al. (US 5223815), and further in view of Klosterman (US 6,078,348).

Regarding claim 5, Herz in view of Rosenthal does not clearly disclose, “the broadcast station is configured to cyclically transmit a carousel of modules containing the program data”.

Klosterman discloses the broadcast station is configured to cyclically transmit a carousel of modules containing the program data (Col. 8, lines 60-65+). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Herz in view of Klosterman to configure a broadcasting station

to transmit carousel of modules in a cyclic manner, as taught by Klosterman, so to provide the interactive television system and moreover to take the advantages of software applications written in modular fashion by conserving the limited amount of memory in the set-top box and thus reducing the time required to download applications from a broadcast station to a set-top box (Col. 8, lines 60-Col. 9, lines 1).

Regarding claim 6, Herz further discloses, wherein said one of the receiving station (TV set) and the programmable device (RC) is configured to select the portion of the program data without transmitting an indication of the portion of the program data to the broadcast station (all the functions are executed on the RC and control signals are communicates from the RC to the TV set; Col. 10, lines 52-11).

Regarding claim 7, Herz further discloses, wherein the broadcast station comprises a television broadcast station (cable company; Col. 8, lines 41-44).

3. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herz (US 6407779) in view of Rosenthal et al. (US 5223815), and further in view of Aldava et al. (US 5191615).

Regarding claim 11, Herz in view of Rosenthal does not clearly disclose, "the instructional cues comprise streaming speech data, wherein the programmable

device is configured to transmit the streaming speech data to the speaker upon receipt of the streaming speech data from the receiving station.”

Aldava discloses a programmable toy 300 receives the streaming speech data from the receiving station 200 and the programmable toy is configured to transmit the streaming speech data to the speaker (Col. 3, lines 63-Col.4, lines 5, lines 13-18, lines 44-55). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Herz in view of Rosenthal to have instructional cues comprise streaming speech data, wherein the programmable device (RC) is configured to transmit the streaming speech data to the speaker upon receipt of the streaming speech data from the TV set, as taught by Aldava, so the programmable device (RC) could produce real-time speaking sound as the TV programming displayed and heard from the television (Col. 15, lines 36-42).

4. Claims 12-22, 26, and 28-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Klosterman (US 6,078,348) in view of Herz (US 6407779), and further in view of Rosenthal et al. (US 5223815).

Regarding claim 12, Klosterman discloses a method comprising:

Broadcasting data to a plurality of receiving stations (TV set) (Fig. 1A; Col. 2, lines 25-65+);

Receiving the data modules at one of the receiving stations (Col. 8, lines 47-65+).

Klosterman does not clearly disclose, "Selecting a portion of the data"; "transmitting a notification signal to a programmable device to indicate that the receiving station is ready to transmit the data to the programmable device, and wherein the programmable device is configured to emit a user-sensible signal to indicate that the programmable device should be brought into communication with the receiving station"; "Transmitting the selected portion of the data to a programmable device; and programming the programmable device according to the selected portion of the data".

Herz discloses (Fig. 1) the TV set selects a portion of the broadcast data received (selects EPG data among data received from broadcast data), transmitting a notification signal to a programmable device (RC) to indicate that the receiving station (TV set) is ready to transmit the data to the programmable device (Herz; Col. 7, lines 27-49 and Col. 14, lines 56-65) and transmits the selected portion of the data (transmits EPG) to a programmable device (RC) (Col. 8, lines 41-49); and programming the programmable device (RC) according to the selected portion of the data (configuring the RC to display the received EPG; Col. 9, lines 3-27 and Col. 10, lines 40-56).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Klosterman by transmitting a portion of the broadcast data received at the TV set to a programmable device, as taught by Herz, so to provide a programmable device (RC) that is capable of storing and updating

TV program guide information in the programmable device memory (Col. 1, lines 54-58).

Rosenthal discloses a transmitter unit transmits a signal 14 to a receiver unit 13. If the strength of the receiving signal, at the receiver, is below the predetermined reference signal voltage (outside the communication range), then the receiver generates a speech (alarm) from the speech synthesizer 18 to indicate that receiver is out-of range; see col. 4, lines 44-17.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Klosterman in view of Herz to have a mechanism to notify the user when the receiver device and the transmitter device are not within the communication range, as taught by Rosenthal, so to always keep both devices, transmitter and receiver, within the range of communication.

Regarding claim 13, Herz further discloses a user locally selecting the selected portion of the data (Col. 9, lines 3-10).

Regarding claim 14, Herz further discloses wherein the selecting comprises the user manually selecting the selected portion of the data using the programmable device as an input device (RC; Col. 9, lines 3-47).

Regarding claim 15, Herz further discloses, "comprising filtering the received data according to a set of user preferences to select the selected portion of the data" (Col. 10, lines 40-56).

Regarding claim 16, Herz further discloses, "comprising building the set of user preferences" (Col. 10, lines 42-47).

Regarding claim 17, Herz further discloses, "wherein transmitting the selected portion of the data to the programmable device is performed using a wireless communication link between the receiving station and the programmable device" (Col. 8, lines 41-50).

Regarding claim 18, Herz further discloses, wherein the wireless communications link comprises a bi-directional link (Fig. 1-2; Col. 14, lines 56-65).

Regarding claim 19, Klosterman discloses "wherein broadcasting the data comprises cyclically transmitting a carousel of data modules (Col. 8, lines 60-65+).

Regarding claim 20, Klosterman discloses, "wherein the broadcasting the carousel of data modules comprises transmitting the data modules via the broadcast channel of an interactive television network" (see Abstract; Col. 8, lines 66-Col. 9, lines 1).

Regarding claim 21, Herz further discloses “automatically initiating transmission of the selected portion of the data from the receiving station to the programmable device when the programmable device is within range to establish the wireless communications link to the receiving station” (Col. 14, lines 60-Col. 15, lines 6).

Regarding claim 22, Herz further discloses, “transmitting one or more cues to the programmable device” (i.e., text or graphic overlaid ... as defined by Applicant description page 17, line 16; see Herz’ s Col. 8, lines 44-Col. 9, lines 10 and Col. 11, lines 15 – Col. 13, lines 20; Fig. 10B-12B).

Regarding claim 26, Herz further discloses, wherein the selected portion of the data comprise instructional cues, and wherein the method further comprises providing the instructional cues (i.e., text or graphic overlaid ... as defined by Applicant description page 17, line 16) to a user (Col. 8, lines 44-Col. 9, lines 10 and Col. 11, lines 15 – Col. 13, lines 20; Fig. 10B-12B).

Regarding claim 28, Rosenthal further discloses wherein the 1st range corresponds to a distance the notification signal may be effectively transmitted (threshold condition for communication between two devices is reached), the 2nd range corresponds to a distance the transmitting signal may be effectively transmitted (less than the threshold condition for communication), and wherein the 1st range is greater than the 2nd range (Col. 3, lines 44-55 and Col. 4, lines 18-30).

Regarding claim 29, see analysis of claims 12 and 28.

5. Claims 23 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herz (US 6407779) in view of Heimbürger (DES 386184) and further in view of Rosenthal et al. (US 5223815).

Regarding claim 23, Herz discloses a programmable device (RC; Fig. 2, element 210) comprising:

A memory 216 configured to store program data (EPG; Col. 3, lines 52-55).

A control unit 212 configured to perform one or more actions based on the program data (i.e. EPG) stored in the memory 216 (Col. 3, lines 55-60); and

A receiver 213 configured to receive a notification signal from a transmitter (TV set) indicating that the transmitter (TV set) is ready to transmit/convey program data to the receiver 213 (Herz; Col. 7, lines 27-49 and Col. 14, lines 56-65).

Wherein the programmable device (RC) is configured to select a portion of the program data (EPG) and store the portion of the program data in the memory 216 and to discard the remainder of the program data (The RC is configured to select only a portion of the received EPG data, i.e. one day of the scheduled TV programming, based on the availability of RAM on the RC, see Col. 8, lines 57-60 or based on the user preferred setting stored in the RC, see Col. 10, lines 40-47).

Herz does not clearly disclose the programmable device (RC) is a toy.

Heimbürger discloses a remote control is built as a toy. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Herz' s programmable device (RC) to a Toy, as taught by Heimbürger, so to entice the users to have fun and amusement while using the remote control.

Herz in view of Heimbürger does not disclose wherein the receiver (RC) is configured to emit a user-sensible signal to indicate that the programmable device/receiver (RC) should be brought into communication with the "receiving station"/TV set/transmitter. However, Herz discloses if only IR signal is configured for communicating between the RC and the TV set and when the RC is not within the communication range with the TV set, the RC and the TV set will not communicate until they are both within range (Col. 14, lines 56-65).

Rosenthal discloses a transmitter unit transmits a signal 14 to a receiver unit 13. If the strength of the receiving signal, at the receiver, is below the predetermined reference signal voltage (outside the communication range), then the receiver generates a speech (alarm) from the speech synthesizer 18 to indicate that receiver is out-of range; see col. 4, lines 44-17.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Herz in view of Heimbürger to have a mechanism to notify the user when the receiver device and the transmitter device

are not within the communication range, as taught by Rosenthal, so to always keep both devices, transmitter and receiver, within the range of communication.

Regarding claim 30, Herz further discloses, wherein the portion of the program data comprise instruction cues, and wherein the programmable device/toy further configured to provide the instructional cues (i.e., text or graphic overlaid ... as defined by Applicant description page 17, line 16) to a user (Col. 8, lines 44-Col. 9, lines 10 and Col. 11, lines 15 – Col. 13, lines 20; Fig. 10B-12B).

6. Claims 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herz (US 6407779) in view of Rosenthal et al. (US 5223815) and further in view of Kung (US 5182553).

Regarding claim 24, Herz and Rosenthal do not clearly discloses wherein the instructional cues instruct the user in how to reprogram the programmable device; However, Herz discloses the programmable device is configured to provide the instructional cues (i.e., text or graphic overlaid ... as defined by Applicant description page 17, line 16) to a user (Col. 8, lines 44-Col. 9, lines 10 and Col. 11, lines 15 – Col. 13, lines 20; Fig. 10B-12B).

Kung discloses a communication receiver receives instructional cues (messages) instruct the user how to program/reprogram the communication receiver (abstract). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Herz in view of Rosenthal with

instructional cues instruct the user in how to reprogram the programmable device, as taught by Kung, so to alert the user that changes in the operation of the communication receiver may be required, especially if changes indicated are reprogrammed (Col. 2, lines 18-30).

7. Claims 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Klosterman (US 6,078,348) in view of Herz (US 6407779) and further in view of Rosenthal et al. (US 5223815), and further in view of Kung (US 5182553).

Regarding claim 27, Klosterman, Herz and Rosenthal do not clearly disclose wherein the instructional cues instruct the user in how to reprogram the programmable device; However, Herz discloses the programmable device is configured to provide the instructional cues (i.e., text or graphic overlaid ... as defined by Applicant description page 17, line 16) to a user (Col. 8, lines 44-Col. 9, lines 10 and Col. 11, lines 15 – Col. 13, lines 20; Fig. 10B-12B).

Kung discloses a communication receiver receives instructional cues (messages) instruct the user how to program/reprogram the communication receiver (abstract). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Klosterman in view of Herz and Rosenthal with instructional cues instruct the user in how to reprogram the programmable device, as taught by Kung, so to alert the user that changes in the operation of the communication receiver may be required, especially if changes indicated are reprogrammed (Col. 2, lines 18-30).

8. Claim 31 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herz (US 6407779) in view of Heimbürger (DES 386184) and further in view of Rosenthal et al. (US 5223815), and further in view of Kung (US 5182553).

Regarding claim 31, Herz, Heimbürger and Rosenthal do not clearly disclose wherein the instructional cues instruct the user in how to reprogram the programmable device; However, Herz discloses the programmable device is configured to provide the instructional cues (i.e., text or graphic overlaid ... as defined by Applicant description page 17, line 16) to a user (Col. 8, lines 44-Col. 9, lines 10 and Col. 11, lines 15 – Col. 13, lines 20; Fig. 10B-12B).

Kung discloses a communication receiver receives instructional cues (messages) instruct the user how to program/reprogram the communication receiver (abstract). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Herz in view of Heimbürger and Rosenthal with instructional cues instruct the user in how to reprogram the programmable device, as taught by Kung, so to alert the user that changes in the operation of the communication receiver may be required, especially if changes indicated are reprogrammed (Col. 2, lines 18-30).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hai Tran whose telephone number is 703-308-7372. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Faile can be reached on 703-305-4380. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-0377.

HT:ht
01/24/2003

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "AITRAN", is written over two horizontal lines.

HAITRAN
PATENT EXAMINER